## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

***Status of the Claims***

Claims 1-11, 17, 24-39, 41, 42 and 43 are currently pending in this application. Among the pending claims, claims 1-11 and 43 are withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, all of the pending claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 48-53 are added. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

***Objections and Rejections***

Claims 36, 41 and 42 have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1. 75 (c) as being in improper form.

Claims 17, 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pre-Granted U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0234981 to Hoffmann ("Hoffman") in view of Pre-Granted Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0067679 to Allan ("Allan").

Claims 24-33, 37-39 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hoffman.

As indicated above, all of the pending claims including the objected to and rejected claims have been cancelled rendering the objections and rejections directed to these claims moot.

***New Claims***

Claims 48-53 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. Specifically, claim 48 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the [0 1 0] axis perpendicular to the [0 0 1]



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axis in the isometric crystal is inclined to a direction of repetition of the pattern by 10° or greater." A shifting arrangement between a peak of intrinsic birefringence and a repetitive pattern direction enables a reticle pattern to be exposed onto the object without drastically lowering the imaging performance of the exposure apparatus. Applicants believe that none of the cited references including Hoffmann and Allan shows or suggests this aspect of invention. Claims 49-53, in depending from claim 48, are also believed allowable over the cited references for at least the similar reasons.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.



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Application No. 09/934,947
Amendment dated March 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated February 15, 2006

Docket No. 1232-4756

## AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4756). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 16, 2006

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